



THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News

Summer 2026

Redesigned Summer Camp Patches



The native American has been removed from the camp patches. The new designs represent the Scouts' journey from the beginning with the rising sun, to continuity framed by a horseshoe. The campfire in the center represents gathering, reflection, and the passing of knowledge. Both patches are connected, telling a broader story of the progressions within Scouting, from their first experiences to the lasting traditions of camp.

Staff City Pavillion Rises

The Alumni have taken on the project to build a common meeting area between the two staff city areas. Volunteers, headed up by our executive board member, Mark Siegle, have devoted their weekends to support camp's most valued asset. Here's a look at the progression of this project.



April 2, 2026. Foundations have been poured, permits and initial inspections completed, the beginning framing started. The following photos (right) are from **April 18th**, and **May 2nd, 9th, 23rd**



Life Talents Learned on Camp Staff

By Carter Miller: Campcraft Staff 2014-2019

From the outside, it's easy to see Scouting America as just another way to keep kids active; the trips, merit badges, and summer camp feed into this narrative. However, the true goal of the Scouting program is to prepare the youth of today for the challenges life throws at them later down the road. To learn, practice, and live by the Scout motto: Be Prepared.



When I was a Scout, I often referred to the motto when deciding whether to pack an extra pair of socks for our Troops' backpacking trip or if I really needed my raincoat on that weekend campout. Now that I can look back and reflect on my time in Scouting, I understand that those words mean so much more. Being prepared means learning how to effectively communicate in high stress environments (the council first aid meet), understanding how to manage a team and organize labor (patrol duty roster), and knowing when to ask for assistance. These are a few examples of how the Scouting program works to prepare young boys and girls for the future while disguising the life lessons as fun activities. I can rattle off a hundred more skills that I learned then and utilize now while I navigate working in film and tv production.



I have worn many hats in the film industry, but despite each job description being different from one another, the skills I learned in Scouting have helped me in multiple ways. Specifically, I'd like to highlight a skill I learned while working on Camp Staff; responding to questions. Seems simple, but it does so much more than you realize. Let me give you a scenario. A Scout leader asks you, "Where's the Dining Hall", a question that you either know the answer to or you don't. You only have two options, you give the leader directions, or you respond, "I don't know". However, there is a third option, when asked a question where you don't know the answer to, you admit to your lack of knowing and offer to help them find the answer. A small adjustment to how you respond will, in that leader's mind, frame you as someone who can solve problems and find the answers. Now the next time they need help, you've become an integral part in how they resolve their issue and you've made yourself indispensable.

Countless times I have used this technique on film sets and become the point person for my superiors when they need something done. Then, when the next job comes around, I am at the top of their list of who they want working on their crew. Something so simple as re-framing the way I look at problems with a solution-based approach has opened so many opportunities and it started during HSR's Staff Week training.



Working on set in LA, Carter created a trash blanket for a film's production design.

The Camps' Green Briar Dilemma

By Ed Layton, Conservation Committee, Chair

In early May, approximately 50 acres of Camp Horseshoe were treated to reduce dense understory vegetation (*that includes Green Briar and other invasive plants, preventing natural tree growth and extremely flammable*) as part of our long-term forest stewardship program. This work was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), reflecting our commitment to implementing recognized conservation practices that benefit the camp's natural resources and reduce the risk of wildfires. We look forward to sharing updates as we continue caring about our camps' remarkable natural resources.



Plant leaves begin to brown approximately one week after treatment. Camp staff and forestry professionals will continue monitoring the area throughout the summer to evaluate the effectiveness of the forest stewardship project.

Camp Road Repaving



As you enter Horseshoe this year, you'll notice the newly paved part of the Camp Road that now reaches up towards COPE. No longer will you hit the wash out at the low point where the gravel used to start. Don't forget, we have no Scouts to spare, the speed limit is still 15 MPH.



This past March HSRAA's Virtual Museum was highlighted on Scouting America's national blog.

Be sure to visit www.HSRAA.org. Reorganized and in a new mobile friendly format our website is easier to use and loaded with information, including the Virtual Museum. The museum preserves a wealth of history and tradition that helps make our camp stand apart as one of the best camps in the nation.

The Alumni Association is looking for another Webmaster to help oversee, update, and maintain our website and Virtual Museum. Interested or think you may know someone? Contact Andrew Coe at andrewcoe@gmail.com

40 New Picnic Tables at Camp



Thanks to Troop 78 and other camp volunteers, HSR has forty new tables to be used in the Picnic Grove, Staff City Pavilion, Camp Ware, and throughout Troop camp sites. Designed by Ernie and built to last, these Picnic tables will be used & appreciated by many for years to come.



Alumni Reunion - July 17th, 2026



Join your fellow Scouters, Scouts, and guests to rekindle, reconnect, & reminisce at this year's HSRAA Reunion on Friday, July 17th. The fun starts at 2:00 at the Goodman Pavilion. This year's activities include tours of the new staff city pavilion, the water carnival, videos, slide shows, games, Maryland crabs, smoked brisket, corn on the cob, watermelon, and more!



Active HSRAA members are \$25, guests are \$30, and all sign-ups on the day of the event are \$30. New member discount for the remainder of the year is \$50, includes the Reunion.



Use this QR code and register **now** for the HSRAA Reunion.



7th Historical Sign Installed



Over the past four years, HSRAA has designed and installed park-style information signs over the reservation. This April with the help from Sam Matega, Andrew Coe, Eric and Steve Miller we placed one on the trail to Octoraro 22 lodge.

Trail Work to the Pool



Over the past few OA weekends there has been a focused approach to improving the pool trail. Heavy rains, Scout traffic, and the steep grades have caused washouts and a treacherous path. Check dams, re-grading, and gravel have been added to address this concern. On your way to the Water Carnival, you can check out this trail work, plus three of the HSRAA historical signs.



According to HSRAA's Bylaws, the Executive Committee consists of no more than (15) fifteen people. Candidates for the committee may be nominated from the floor or presented by the committee, to be elected at our annual reunion for the following year starting in September.

Are you interested in being more involved with HSRAA? Reach out to Steve Miller (610) 715-2319 or steve.miller@foxroach.com, before or during our Reunion for more information.